

March 17, 1998

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council

FROM: Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs, Glendale, Chairman

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room (see enclosed map)

302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

MAG Office, Suite 300

Please park in the garage under the Norwest Bank Building. Parking places will be reserved for Regional Council members on the first and second levels of the garage. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

The next Regional Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members who wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda are requested to contact the MAG office. MAG will host a progressive dinner/reception for the Regional Council members following the meeting in the MAG offices on the 3rd floor. Supporting information is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions, please call the MAG office.

**MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
March 25, 1998**

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

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| <p>1. <u>Call to Order</u></p> | |
| <p>2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></p> | |
| <p>3. <u>Approval of February 25, 1998 Meeting Minutes</u></p> | <p>3. Review and approve February 25, 1998 meeting minutes.</p> |
| <p>4. <u>Call to the Audience</u></p> <p>An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council for items that are not included on the agenda. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit.</p> | <p>4. For information.</p> |
| <p>5. <u>Showcased Agency Introduction</u></p> <p>As part of the MAG restructuring effort, an opportunity is provided for a MAG member agency to showcase its community. The City of Surprise will be featured at this meeting.</p> | <p>5. For information and discussion.</p> |
| <p>6. <u>Executive Director's Report</u></p> <p>The MAG Executive Director will provide a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest.</p> | <p>6. For information and discussion.</p> |
| <p>7. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u></p> <p>Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Council members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.</p> | <p>7. For information, discussion and approval of the Consent Agenda.</p> |

*** ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT****TRANSPORTATION ITEM*****8. Administrative Adjustments to the FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program**

The FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program was approved by the Regional Council in October 1997. It is necessary to revise the annual element of the TIP to accelerate 18 projects, amend four projects and defer two projects. The 18 accelerated projects are a result of additional funding opportunities within the FY 1998 Federal Transportation Appropriations Bill. In addition, two projects are deferred and three projects need to be adjusted as a result of shifts in project funding. These projects do not affect the MAG conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the adjustments. Please refer to the enclosed material.

***9. Recommendation to Increase the Multimodal Representation on the Transportation Review Committee**

In 1994, the Regional Council established the Transportation Review Committee (TRC), which is composed of high level technical advisors from the MAG member agencies. On April 30, 1997, the TRC recommended expanding the membership to include representation of the MAG modal committees (Street, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Intelligent Transportation System and Telecommunications) and a freight industry representative as non-voting members for a one-year trial period. The Management Committee recommended approval of the expansion of the TRC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

***10. Recommendations to the Arizona Department of Transportation for the FTA Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Program**

On March 2, 1998, the MAG FTA Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Ad Hoc Committee ranked applications for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310

8. For information, discussion and approval of the transit administrative adjustments to the FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.

9. For information, discussion and approval to expand the membership of the TRC to include the chairmen or their representative of the MAG modal committees (Street, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Intelligent Transportation System and Telecommunications) and a freight industry representative as non-voting members for a one-year trial period.

10. For information, discussion and approval to forward the priority listing of applicants for FTA Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

funding. FTA provides these funds to the Arizona Department of Transportation for capital assistance to agencies and public bodies that provide transportation services for people who are elderly and for people who have a disability. This year, 17 applications for capital assistance awards were received and considered by the Committee. The ranking provided by MAG is considered by ADOT in determining which applicants are to be awarded. The Management Committee recommended approval of the recommendations. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*11. Amendment to MAG Mode Choice Study Contract

On July 24, 1996, the Regional Council approved the selection of Parsons Brinckerhoff to conduct the MAG Mode Choice Study for \$73,000. On January 28, 1998, the Regional Council approved MAG participation with ADOT in a region-wide high occupancy toll lane study. Parsons Brinckerhoff is in the process of updating the MAG Mode Choice Model. The MAG transportation models need to be recalibrated and validated in order to handle evaluation of a variety of high occupancy lane utilization policies, including pricing strategies. This work is interrelated with Mode Choice Study tasks and will enhance the MAG models. Staff is recommending that the Mode Choice Study be expanded to include high occupancy toll lane modeling capabilities. Parsons Brinckerhoff has recently completed Major Investment Studies and toll lane modeling for the Katy Freeway in Houston, I-15 in San Diego, Route 91 in Orange County and Route 101 in Sonoma County. To ensure that the MAG models can be used in the high occupancy toll lane study, it is recommended that the existing MAG contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff be amended to provide an additional \$110,000 of transportation model update assistance. This amendment is contingent upon funding for the amendment being provided by ADOT. The Management Committee recommended approval of the contract amendment. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11. For information, discussion and approval to amend the MAG Mode Choice Study contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff to provide up to an additional \$110,000 for transportation model update assistance, and to authorize the MAG Executive Director to execute the amendment, contingent upon the funding for the amendment being provided by ADOT.

AIR QUALITY ITEMS

*12. Interagency Consultation: Processes and Potentially Regionally Significant Projects for the 1998 Conformity Analysis

Arizona conformity rules require a recipient of federal highway or transit funds (e.g., ADOT, RPTA, Maricopa County, cities, towns) to determine whether the transportation project is regionally significant for conformity purposes before approving the project. A listing has been developed by MAG indicating the projects from the Draft FY 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that potentially would be considered as regionally significant. Staff reported on additions to the listing at the Management Committee for rail and bus projects. Comments on the list are due to MAG by March 23, 1998.

Federal and State conformity regulations also require MAG to consult with federal, State and local air quality and transportation agencies regarding the following processes: selection of modeling methods; identification of exempt projects; ensuring expeditious implementation of transportation control measures; identification of projects which require PM-10 hotspot analysis. Updated information for use in the conformity analysis for the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan (1998 Update) and the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program is being transmitted for consultation. The deadline for submittal of written comments to MAG is March 23, 1998. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*13. Serious Area Air Quality Plan Consultant Technical Assistance

The Maricopa County area is a Serious nonattainment area for carbon monoxide, ozone and particulate matter. Serious area air quality plans must to be submitted for each of these pollutants during 1998. Air quality plans are comprehensive in coverage, including the assessment of regional environmental conditions, pollutant emission inventories, measures commitments and a demonstration of future

12. For information, discussion and consultation.

13. For information, discussion and approval to increase the MAG air quality consultant contracts by the following amounts: 1) Harding Lawson Associates (\$90,000); 2) Sierra Research (\$150,000); 3) Sonoma Technology (\$30,000); and 4) Systems Applications International (\$75,000) and to authorize the MAG Executive Director to execute the amendments.

attainment status. In addition, measure emission reductions and estimates of future air quality must be developed through a highly complex technical process, involving use of sophisticated computer models.

As approved by the Regional Council on October 29, 1997, the MAG staff was directed to prepare a request for up to a five-year extension of the attainment date (2006). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified an extensive list of requirements for this request. MAG has been allocating extensive staff resources to the these needs and to provide support for the Governor's Air Quality Strategies Task Force. In addition, there are continuing staff demands regarding transportation/air quality conformity and visibility issues.

Given the extensive technical demands involved with preparation of Serious area plans and other air quality issues, consultant assistance will be a necessity to keep pace with the work load and EPA mandates.

To provide the required consultant technical assistance, staff is recommending that four MAG air quality consultant contracts be amended: 1) Harding Lawson Associates (\$90,000); 2) Sierra Research (\$150,000); 3) Sonoma technology (\$30,000); and 4) Systems Applications International (\$75,000). Funding will be provided by carryover funds from the Federal Highway Administration. The Management Committee recommended approval of the amendments to the consulting contracts. Please refer to the enclosed material.

GENERAL ITEMS

*14. Draft July 1, 1997 Water Service Area Resident Population Updates

Each year MAG prepares Water Service Area Resident Population Updates on behalf of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). The Updates will be used by ADWR in assessing municipal compliance with per capita water use targets. On February 26, 1998, the

14. For information, discussion and approval of the July 1, 1997 Water Service Area Resident Population Updates.

MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) recommended approval of the Updates. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendations of the POPTAC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

15. FY 1998 MAG Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity Report

In February, mid-phase public meetings were sponsored by the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee and the Maricopa Association of Governments. In addition to informational open houses and a transportation fair, a joint public hearing was conducted by representatives from the governing bodies of these agencies on February 24, 1998. The public hearing included a presentation on the MAG Freeway Program Annual Report and an opportunity for citizens to comment on transportation issues. All of the events provided information on the draft 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program and various aspects of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Management Committee recommended acceptance of the Report. Please refer to the enclosed material.

16. Conformity Analysis of the Draft FY 1998-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. The TIP serves as a five-year regional guide for the preservation, management and expansion of public services, including highways, ridesharing, transit facilities and various congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects. Projects in the TIP are from local, state and federal sources. On February 24, 1998, the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended the projects in

15. For information, discussion and acceptance of the FY 1998 MAG Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity Report.

16. For information, discussion and approval to authorize an air quality conformity analysis of the Draft FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.

the FY 1999-2003 MAG TIP for an air quality conformity analysis, excluding the MAG Freeway Program projects. Since the TRC meeting, the public hearing for the MAG Freeway Program has been held and staff is recommending a conformity analysis on the TIP including the Freeway Program projects.

During the public review and comment period for the Tentative Life Cycle Program for the Regional Freeway Program, the City of Phoenix requested a change to the 56th Street to Scottsdale Road segment of the Pima Freeway. Phoenix requested that the completion of the interim project for the segment be delayed and that the segment be built to its final design in one phase. This project was reviewed at the Management Committee meeting for inclusion in the FY 1999-2003 MAG TIP for an air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the TIP including an errata sheet of proposed changes. Please refer to the enclosed material.

17. Conformity Analysis of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan: Draft 1998 Addendum

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that transportation plans be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. To comply with this requirement, it is necessary to conduct a conformity analysis on an addendum to the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan. Items addressed in the addendum include: 1) priority changes to the ADOT Life Cycle Program and Long Range Plan for Freeways, 2) extending the time horizon to 2018, 3) incorporation of changes from the FY 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program, and 4) incorporating updates to the Long Range Street Plan as submitted by member agencies. On February 24, 1998, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the Addendum for an air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the addendum. Please refer to the enclosed material.

17. For information, discussion and approval of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan: Draft 1998 Addendum for an air quality conformity analysis.

18. MAG Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee Update

In April 1996, the Regional Council approved a strategic plan for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in the region. In December 1996 the Regional Council formed the MAG ITS Committee. The roles and responsibilities of the committee include: (1) vision and leadership, (2) long range plan, (3) programming, (4) funding, (5) coordination (6) education and promotion and (7) data collection and reporting. In recent years, federal demonstration funds and MAG Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds have initiated a significant number of ITS projects, including freeway management system and signal coordination projects. ADOT has received a \$7.9 million Model Deployment Initiative (MDI) Grant for ITS projects in the region. The FY 1999-2003 TIP is proposing \$6.0 million in new ITS projects. Additional funding for ITS may be forthcoming under proposed State and Federal legislation. A report on ITS activities will be provided to the members of the Regional Council. Please refer to the enclosed material.

18. For information and discussion.

GENERAL ITEMS19. MAG Homeless Plan Update

In 1987, the Regional Council established the Homeless Task Force to provide regional leadership and direction in addressing the issues of homelessness in this region. In 1996, the Regional Council requested an updated plan to determine whether existing strategies should be revised or new strategies needed. Under the direction of the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee, a special Homeless Working Group was convened. The Working Group included representatives from the Regional Council, Human Services Coordinating Committee, Human Services Technical Committee and ad hoc governmental members. Recommendations were developed in four areas: services, housing, employment and public policy. On October 16, 1997, the Human Services Coordinating Committee recommended approval of the MAG Homeless Plan Update.

19. For information, discussion and recommendation to approve the MAG Homeless Plan Update and have the MAG members send a letter to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development urging them to permit applications for one-year funding for the seriously mentally ill housing to allow us to address the federal funding at the local level.

Since the Coordinating Committee action, the issue of continuing the \$19 million in rental vouchers for over 500 homeless seriously mentally ill persons has surfaced. There is a commitment from the Governor's Office to seek state funding next year, and a suggestion that HUD permit one-year renewals to allow time to plan for the funding shortfall. At the Management Committee, a recommendation was made to have MAG members send a letter to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development supporting a City of Phoenix and Arizona Department of Commerce request for a waiver in their application requirements to assist in resolving this issue. Please refer to the enclosed material.

20. Revisions to Enhance the MAG Public Comment Process

At the January 23, 1998 Regional Council retreat, accomplishments for the previous year were reviewed and improvements were discussed. One area discussed for improvement was the MAG public comment process. The current public comment process resulted from a Regional Council retreat held in February 1996. A revised public comment process is being recommended consisting of public comment before, during and after the Regional Council meeting

The MAG public comment process is one element of the MAG Process for Public Involvement in Transportation Planning approved by the Regional Council on September 28, 1994. Federal regulations require that changes to the process have a 45 day comment period. In accordance with the federal regulations, it is recommended that the proposed revisions to the public comment process be subject to a 45 day public comment period and then considered by the Regional Council. Please refer to the enclosed material.

20. For information, discussion and approval of the proposed revised MAG public comment process for a 45 day comment period and then considered by the Regional Council for final approval.